THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) According to reports received from Govrnment of Gujarat 2562 villages in the districts of Kutch, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Rajkot and Bhavnagar have been declared as drought affected. The State Government has, however, not reported shortage of any essential commodity in the area.

(b) Government of India has released two instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for the year 1994-95 amounting to Rs. 31.875 crores in advance in order to enable the State Government undertake relief measures in the drought affected areas. The State Government has undertaken various relief measures in the affected areas including generation of additional employment; distributing cash doles to the old, children and infirm, supply of safe drinking water; and arrangement of foodder.

Pact between India and Syria in the field of Agriculture

539. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Syria have recently signed a cooperation programme in the field of agriculture and allied sectors ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Programme of Cooperation (P.O.C.) in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors between India and Syria was signed in Damascus on 19th June, 1994.

(b) The POC provides for developing cooperation in various areas of agriculture including field crops, horticulture, food processing, plant protection and quarantine, animal production and health, soil and water reasources management, agriculture extension, aquaculture and marine resources. Collaborative activities are proposed to be carried out through exchange of information, germplasm. experts, training of personnel, consultancy etc.

Milk Production

540. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation's latest 'food outlook' report, the milk production in India is likely to increase by four per cent during this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what was the milk production in India during the last two years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Food Outlook Report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation has indicated that milk production in developed countries is forecasted to continue to grow in 1994. In Asia the anticipated expansion is 2%. In India, the production is expected to increase by 4% in line with the growth rate in rent years.

(c) The total milk production during the last two years is as under:

(million tonnes)

1992-93 . . .	57.8 (provisional)
1993-94 . . .	60.8 (provisional)